

Weather Forecast
Cloudy and cold today and tomorrow;
low tonight near 25.
Temperatures today—Highest, 39, at
12:01 a.m.; lowest, 29, at 7:45 a.m.; 37
at 1:30 p.m. Yesterday—Highest, 49, at
8:20 p.m.; lowest, 29, at 5:50 a.m.

Late New York Markets, Page A-13.

The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

Guide for Readers

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5 CENTS.

Yanks Capture 6 Fortified Towns, Drive Within Half Mile of Duren; Nazis Weaken Along Entire Front

Hodges' Forces Reach Roer River For First Time

BULLETIN.

PARIS (P).—American 1st Army tanks and infantry today drove to within half a mile of Duren, largest city between Aachen and Cologne, capturing six fortified villages on Duren's approaches.

The towns were Hoven, Pier, Merken, Merode, Gey and Derichweiler.

To the south, the American 7th Army broke clear through the Maginot Line and advanced more than 6 miles in 8 hours, reaching Seltz, 15 miles, southwest of the Rhine city of Karlsruhe. A dozen French towns along the Rhine were captured.

(Map on Page A-4.)

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Infantrymen of Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' American 1st Army today drove to the flooded Roer River for the first time, captured the town of Merode and battled the Germans in a string of fortified villages about 2 miles west of Duren.

Gen. Hodges' troops seized 1,000 yards of the west bank of the Roer and at one point were within 1 1/2 miles of Duren in an advance which reached Konzendorf.

The German Army's defensive fight in thick fortifications before vital arsenals of the fatherland was reported in front-line dispatches to be weakening west of the Roer, inside the Siegfried Line to the south at Dillingen and Saarlautern, and in Northern Alsace.

Late last month Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's 9th Army reached the Roer along an 8-mile front north of the 1st Army sector, between the central and northern river citadels of Julich and Linlich, but today was the first time the 1st Army had reached the barrier to Cologne. Considerable German movement was observed east of the river and 9th Army guns opened up on the enemy, supreme headquarters announced.

East of this sector other of Gen. Hodges' troops fought their way out of Hurtgen Forest below Aachen. Previously certain units had battled through the forest, but the Germans still held about 10 per cent of the deep wood.

Hold Out in Three Towns.

Merode, a forest village 3 1/2 miles southwest of Duren, was cleared during the night. The Germans still held out behind thick walls and in cellars of Merken, Pier and Gey, all within 4 miles of Duren, the southern bastion of the Roer River line and the largest German city encountered beyond Aachen. Two-thirds of Merken, almost on the river 3 1/2 miles northwest of Duren, was cleared.

Veterans of Gen. Hodges' 1st Army moved slowly and reached the Roer 5 miles southeast of Merode after advancing down a hill in the area of Bergstein, captured last week. Snow in that sector had melted, creating a soft bog which made going harder. Lt. Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army finally captured Sarreguemines, which has a population of 14,000, pulled up to the border of the Saarland and started shelling the important German cities of Zweibrücken (16,000) and St. Ingbert (21,000), 5 and 7 miles, respectively, inside Germany.

The 3d Army cleared out five fortified towns in Saarlautern, a mile north of Saarlautern, and a similar area in Ensdorf, the same distance east. Both are in the Siegfried Line. It appeared that the Germans were cutting the ELAS line between Saarlautern and the German main pressure around the steel city of Dillingen, 3 miles north of Saarlautern, but attempted no more counterattacks in the ruins of Saarlautern itself, a city as devastated as Aachen.

Hagenau Captured.
Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's 7th Army captured the Alsace base city of Hagenau (19,500), skirted the dense forest to the north and drove to within 29 miles of the German city of Karlsruhe behind the Rhine. Supply dumps were seized at Hagenau. The Americans were within 4 miles of the German Palatine above the city.

German broadcasts today said the 7th Army, using 15 infantry and several tank divisions, had opened a new major offensive against the Siegfried Line between Sarreguemines and Hagenau.

(This suggested 250,000 men or more employed on a 40-mile sector where the Americans were closing hard toward the German frontier. This was more than double the strength identified on the 7th Army sector.)

(The Germans asserted that from 20,000 to 30,000 Americans had been lost in the battle of the Saar and that Gen. Patton had failed to achieve a breakthrough.)

Advance on Colmar.
Below Strasbourg, the 7th and the French 1st Army were within 3 1/2 miles of Colmar (43,000), checked

One additional man from the District area has been reported killed in this war. See "On the Honor Roll," Page A-2.

(See WESTERN FRONT, Page A-4.)

Thousands of Crack Jap Troops Wiped Out in Trap Near Ormoc

Two American Forces Effect Junction
And Encircle 26th Enemy Division

By the Associated Press.

GEN. MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Dec. 12.—Japan's bloody but vain defense of Ormoc took on the proportions of an annihilation today as headquarters reported thousands of crack imperial troops wiped out in a trap just south of the Leyte Island port city.

Doughboys of the 77th and 7th Infantry Divisions effected a junction just south of Ormoc yesterday and eradicated the 26th Japanese division, hopelessly caught in a vise fashion after strategic Yank landings on the coast below Ormoc on Thursday.

Meanwhile, other units of the 77th destroyed the entire garrison bitterly defending Ormoc. Gen. MacArthur announced in his communique today. He described fighting as "all the most desperate character."

Annihilation of the Japanese in the Ormoc sector eliminated the southern segment of the Yamashita line. While Gen. MacArthur did not specify the number of enemy troops wiped out in the trap, he said in his Monday communique that "many thousands" were in the narrowing pocket. There was little indication many could have escaped.

Great stores of equipment and supplies were captured.

Ormoc, which the 77th Division Yanks entered Sunday, was an important base of reinforcement for Japanese fighting in the Ormoc corridor to the north, where bloody engagements have continued for weeks despite torrential rains.

With Ormoc taken the Americans turned more power to the task of clearing the enemy from the mountainous area.

(See PHILIPPINES, Page A-12.)

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Nearly 2,200 American planes, including 1,250 Flying Fortresses and Liberators, today bombed the Nazis' principal synthetic oil refinery at Merseburg and rail yards at Hanau, Aschaffenburg and Darmstadt.

The attack followed up a record assault by 4,000 bombers and fighters yesterday.

It was the 19th attack of the war on Merseburg's leading oil plant, the Leuna refinery. Eighteen of them had been made in daylight by American heavy bombers.

Heavy Clouds Over Target.

The bombing at Merseburg was by instrument due to heavy clouds. All the rail targets were in the open and were hit visually.

All the bombers and most of the Mustangs—Thunderbolt—Lightning fighter escort were from the United States 8th Air Force.

Berlin air-raid warnings indicated at least two other heavy bomber blows landed on German targets today—one by Fortresses and Liberators from the United States 15th Air Force in Italy, the other by the RAF Bomber Command.

All three heavy bombardment air forces participated in yesterday's assault with 10,000 tons of bombs—climaxing a campaign which has crippled synthetic oil production in the Ruhr and severed main rail routes to German defenses in the west.

Attacks to Be Pressed.

"Our job now is to keep hitting them and destroying repairs as fast as the Germans can make them," a staff officer said.

The 8th Air Force sent 1,600 bombers aloft yesterday and, with an escort of 800 fighters, they smashed rail yards at Frankfurt, Hanau and Giessen. It was the largest single bomber fleet ever put in the air—twice the size of Germany's peak aerial effort in September, 1940, when 800 planes attacked London.

A force of 500 American heavy bombers from Italy hit an oil refinery at Vienna and 500 British bombers attacked three fuel plants and a rail center in the Ruhr.

Mosquito bombers returned to Western Germany last night with blockbusters. Continent-based fighters and bombers got in 800 sorties against tactical targets before dark yesterday.

War Prisoners Reported Killed in Mukden Raid

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The Tokyo radio said today some bombs dropped in an American Super Fortress raid on December 7 fell on a prisoner of war camp, killing 16 American and British prisoners and fatally wounding 18 more.

Twenty-three others were reported hurt. The broadcast was without Allied confirmation.

'E' Bond Sales Here Maintain Schedule, Reach 56% of Quota

Sale of "E" bonds in the District's Sixth War Loan drive climbed to \$16,900,000 today. This is 56.3 per cent of the \$30,000,000 quota. Individual sales rose to \$30,700,000, or 66.7 per cent of the \$46,000,000 quota.

Wilmer J. Waller, District War Finance Committee chairman, expressed satisfaction at the latest figures. "There has been a measurable gain above schedule in individual sales and the E bond sales are on schedule," he said.

Sales in the drive now total \$103,000,000, or 109.6 per cent of the \$94,000,000 quota. This has been made possible by the corporation purchases of bonds, which has reached 150 per cent of the \$48,000,000 quota.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Fighting between Hungarian Patriots and German soldiers through the barricaded streets of Budapest was reported here today as Soviet forces hammered at the gates of the capital.

(Russian dispatches said Soviet tanks had battled into the northern suburbs of Budapest.)

Archduke Robert, brother of the pretender to the Austro-Hungarian throne, said the advances reaching him from Hungary described Budapest as "a city of chaos, with Patriot forces emerging from underground and battling the Germans in various sections of the capital."

Shelling of City Reported.

Unconfirmed Stockholm reports quoted recent arrivals from Budapest as saying Patriots held sections of the working class districts in the city.

A Berlin broadcast of a German war reporter's dispatch from Budapest said the capital had been under heavy Russian artillery fire for 30 hours.

The Nazi-controlled Hungarian radio announced that arrests and executions were being carried out against members of the resistance forces.

Desertions Admitted.

An admission that Hungarian Army officers were deserting and joining the resistance movement was made by the Hungarian radio in reporting the execution of Lt. Gen. Janos Kiss, Col. Jeno Nagy and three others. The radio said Gen. Kiss had directed the organization of the Hungarian front movement on military lines.

A German broadcast said barbed-wire entanglements had been cut throughout Budapest, "and the nailed boots of the sentries ring out on the asphalt."

Archduke Robert said "the best available information I have gives the organized Patriot strength in the capital at about 15,000 to 20,000."

Reds Drive Westward
Past Bend in Danube

MOSCOW, Dec. 12 (P).—Russian tanks and troops drove westward into the suburbs of Budapest, while another powerful Soviet column drove westward past the great bend of the Danube above the city toward Bratislava and Vienna, Russian dispatches said.

The main body of motorized Russian tanks and troops drove down the Danube on Budapest was declared within full view of the capital, and tank units ranged on ahead.

Heavily-reinforced German garrisons suffered high casualties in bitter, short-range fighting, and there were increasing bayonet clashes in the outer antitank zone, it was announced.

Total Gains of 3 Miles.

The Soviet communiqué announced total gains of 3 miles and capture of the towns of Vereseghaz and Szada, both 8 1/2 miles northeast of the capital, by Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's 2d Ukrainian Army.

Other Red Army troops edged in toward the capital from the east, south and southwest.

(The Paris and Algiers radios said the Russians had penetrated Budapest, but this report appeared without any foundation.)

Malinovsky's northern arm swept around the great bend north of Szob. In gains of up to 7 miles, the Russian border was extended nearly 30 miles. These advances put the Red Army troops within 85 miles of Bratislava, the Slovak capital, and 116 miles from Vienna.

Other Points Taken.

On this front the Russians captured Hont, 3 miles west of the rail junction of Dregelyp, taken Sunday, and also seized Varsany, 8 1/2 miles southeast of Balassagyarmat, previously captured.

Front reports indicated that while the Budapest fighting was in the final stage there still would be much resistance.

The Germans are said to have thrown up virtually the same kind of anti-tank ring about Pest, the part of the city east of the Danube, as they did around Sevastopol.

On the north it hinges on the big suburban town of Uj Pest and on the south on the town of Csepel on the island of the same name.

Charles Town Results

FIRST RAISE—Purse, \$800; 3-year-olds and up; about 4 1/2 furlongs.
Pine West (Franklin) 6.60 4.40 3.00
Rome (McIntosh) 6.00 4.00 2.50
Arch McDonald (Ficchi) 5.00 3.00 2.00

Also ran—Bill K. Cast Out, Time Her, Blue Melody, Star Magic.

SECOND RAISE—Purse, \$700; 4-year-olds and up; about 1 1/2 miles.
Rough Amos (Couch) 6.00 3.30 2.20
Maeve (Fammy) 5.00 3.00 2.00
Miss Veil (La Voie) 4.00 2.00 1.00

Time, 1:07.
Also ran—J. Hal, Bleak Heights, The Berries, G. C. Hamilton, Miss Amanda.

THIRD RAISE—Purse, \$700; 3-year-olds and up; about 1 1/2 miles.
Cominch (Ficchi) 17.00 8.00 4.00
Cliff's Comet (Torrey) 18.40 14.20 8.00
Time, 1:26 1/2.
Also ran—Laugh and Play, Day After, Gay Padre, Golden Media, Exploit.

Budapest Battle Among Patriots, Nazis Reported

Soviet Tanks Enter
Northern Suburbs,
Moscow Says

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Fighting between Hungarian Patriots and German soldiers through the barricaded streets of Budapest was reported here today as Soviet forces hammered at the gates of the capital.

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Opposition Fails to Develop At Hearing on 6 Nominations

Clayton to Be Recalled Tomorrow;
Connally Predicts Confirmation of All

By the Associated Press.

Secretary of State Stettinus and his new State Department "team" filed swiftly in review before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today and, unexpectedly, no serious challenges were voiced by committee members in questioning the six nominees.

When the committee decided to adjourn until tomorrow morning, it had heard the prepared statements of all of the nominees, including Archibald Macleish and Will L. Clayton, as well as testimony from the Foreign Relations Committee, protesting vigorously after today's session because he had not been a committee member said Mr.

Clayton would be recalled for questioning tomorrow. However, unless more opposition to the nomination develops, committee members said, the hearings probably will end then.

After today's session, Chairman Connally predicted confirmation of all the appointees, including in addition to Mr. Macleish and Mr. Clayton, Joseph C. Grew to be Undersecretary of State and the following other Assistant Secretaries: Nelson Rockefeller, James C. Dunn and Brig. Gen. Julius C. Holmes.

Senator Chandler, Democrat, of Kentucky, who is not a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, protested vigorously after today's session because he had not been a committee member said Mr.

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Stadium Planning Bill Passed by House After Minor Changes

Measure Establishes
9-Man Committee to
Draft Plans for Project

By the Associated Press.

The House unanimously passed today a bill creating a commission to recommend plans for a Washington memorial stadium. There was no debate.

Only a few minutes earlier, meeting at the call of Chairman Randolph, the House District Committee amended the Senate-approved measure by House Minority Leader Martin, who had blocked passage yesterday. The changes are minor, merely specifying in the title and in the text of the measure that the commission is directed to consider and make recommendations as to the site of the postwar project.

Bills to Seek Action.

Chairman Bilbo of the Senate District Committee earlier had declared he had no objection to the changes, and that it was the intention that the commission would recommend a site instead of "selecting" one. Senator Bilbo is expected to bring the now amended bill before the Senate at the earliest possible moment, to complete legislative action and send the bill to the White House for signature.

The bill would create a commission of nine members, three to be members of the House, three to be members of the Senate and three to be appointed by the District Commissioners.

The measure authorizes an appropriation not to exceed \$25,000 to cover the costs of the commission in its work of considering plans, sites and proposals to make the project self-liquidating.

Band Bill Action Likely.

Later in the day Chairman Randolph also planned to seek House approval on the bill to authorize use of city funds to support the Metropolitan Police Department band.

This was blocked on the House floor yesterday by an objection by Representative Case, Republican, of South Dakota, but overnight it was reported Minority Leader Martin had discussed the measure with Mr. Case and that the latter had withdrawn his opposition.

There was some fear, however, that objections might be raised by other House members, since the bill is under attack by spokesmen for the American Federation of Musicians.

Like the stadium measure, the band bill would have to come up today under the unanimous consent procedure.

**Nine of French Gestapo
Sentenced to Death**

By